Employment Opportunities

†2439. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the employment opportunities created in the country during the year 2001-2002;

(b) the number of persons rendered unemployed in the wake of liberalisation;

(c) the current status of the declaration by the Prime Minister to provide employment to one crore persons every year; and

(d) whether Government have received the report of Montek Singh Ahluwallia Committee; if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Estimates of employment & unemployment are obtained through Labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. As per these surveys, Work Force which was of the order of 374.5 million in 1993-94 has gone up to 397.0 million in 1999-2000.

(b) Due to Globalization and Economic liberalization some employment opportunities in the older type of enterprises might have been reduced due to declining efficiency, but at the same time new employment opportunities are created in a number of new areas such as Information Technology, Tourism, Financial Services, etc. On the whole the total employment opportunities has increased during 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) With a view to implement the Prime Minister's declaration to provide employment to one crore persons per year, Planning Commission set up the Task Force on Employment opportunities under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, former member Planning Commission Task Force submitted its report on 2nd July, 2001 and recommended intervention in five major areas as under.

> Accelerating the rate of growth of GDP, with a particular emphasis on sectors likely to ensure the spread of income to the low income segments of the labour force.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Pursuing appropriate sectoral policies in individual sectors which are particularly important for employment generation. These sector level policies must be broadly consistent with the overall objective of accelerating GDP growth.
- Implementing focused special programmes for creating additional employment and enhancing income generation from existing activities aimed at helping vulnerable groups that may not be sufficiently benefited by the more general growth promoting policies.
- Pursuing suitable policies for education and skill development, which would upgrade the quality of the labour force and make it capable of supporting a growth process which generates high quality jobs.
- Ensuring that the policy and legal environment governing the labour market encourages labour absorption, especially in the organized sector.

Subsequently, a special group in the Planning Commission was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission to suggest strategies and programmes in the Tenth Plan for creating gainful employment opportunities for one crore people per year during each year of the Tenth Plan. The special group has submitted its report in May 2002.

Corruption in PF Offices

2440. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large-scale corrupt practices are prevailing in different regional PF offices;

(b) whether poor employees are being losers due to the default/ callousness of the RPF offices; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.